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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, ruler of all nature, thank You for Your magnificent love that awakens us each day. When we are unfaithful, You continue to shower us with mercies. Thank You for a nation built on a foundation of freedom and for military heroes and heroines who stand daily in harm's way. Thank You for lawmakers who do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Guide their feet and teach them Your paths.

Lord, in these complicated times, show Yourself strong on behalf of those who love You. Solve the riddles that confound us. Confuse those who seek to hinder Your providence. Bring sanity to a world that often seems to spin out of control.

Lord, nothing is impossible for You. So transform our dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will have a short period of morning business until 9:45 a.m. At 9:45

we will proceed to the vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the intelligence reform bill. If cloture is invoked, many of the pending amendments would fall as a result of a germaneness requirement under rule XXII. It is then hoped we will continue to process those germane amendments as we move toward final passage of the bill. It is my hope that cloture will be invoked and we can finish the bill either tonight or early tomorrow morning. The cloture rule, as Senators know, provides for a maximum of 30 hours. Hopefully all the time may not be necessary. Over the course of the morning, as various amendments are looked at, examined, and discussed, we will have a much better feel as to when we can bring closure to the bill.

I remind everybody that upon conclusion of this legislation, the Senate will turn to the other arm of intelligence reform, and that is the internal intelligence reform that has been put forth by our distinguished majority and minority whips who have been working with a task force of 22 Senators, appointed by Senator DASCHLE and myself, to address this significant reform within our own body.

Our scheduling is compressed more and more as we move closer to Friday. It will take the cooperation of all Senators to finish our work before adjourning. We have these two important arms of intelligence reform that we will address. There is other legislation that is in conference right now and progress is being made on the FSC/ETI manufacturing jobs bill. Of course, they will be meeting over the course of today as well. We have Homeland Security appropriations which is in conference, and I understand steady progress is being made.

Our goal is to adjourn on October 8, but all of this important business must be addressed before then. A lot of people are asking, is October 8 firm? In my mind, October 8 is the goal for us to complete our business, and we can

complete our business if we continue the very good work by the managers on this bill, by the task force that is overseeing the development of the recommendations for our internal reform, and the conferences which I mentioned.

I thank Members for their cooperation, for working together in a bipartisan way on very important legislation, most of which addresses the safety and security of the American people.

RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Democratic leader is recognized.

CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through the Chair to the distinguished majority leader, I ordinarily don't speak for other Senators, but I think I can speak for Senator McCONNELL. We appreciate very much the majority leader and Senator DASCHLE's deliberateness in moving forward on reform, not only of the intelligence community but also congressional reform. It would be easy to put that aside, but I think it is important that we move forward as the 9/11 Commission recommended. They have said quite clearly, you can't do one without the other.

What we have done, working with the other 20 members of the task force, is come up with what political scientists say are some significant changes in the history of this body. I don't know if that is true or not, but there are some significant changes which would create a new Homeland Security authorizing committee that would not necessitate the Secretary, as he has this year, appearing 164 times before different committees and subcommittees. Eighty-eight different subcommittees and committees have jurisdiction over him. That is not good. The new Homeland Security committee will take jurisdiction from 10 different committees.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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